



ASSOCIATION *of*
FISH & WILDLIFE
AGENCIES

Committee Charges



Committee Charges

Agricultural Conservation Committee

The Agricultural Conservation Committee is charged with advancing administrative and legislative policies that create, enhance, and protect fish and wildlife habitat and expand recreational access on farm, ranch, and forest land through Farm Bill conservation programs and provisions. The Committee is also charged with helping document program and policy benefits and outcomes, as well as assessing the habitat risks and impacts from food, fiber, and biomass production to inform Committee policy recommendations.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) Working Group

Charge: The charge of the Conservation Reserve Program is to increase the wildlife benefits associated with CRP by formulating and advancing recommendations to improve program structure and policies, as well as facilitating communication and coordination between USDA and state agencies regarding program implementation.

Environmental Quality Incentives Program (EQIP) and Conservation Stewardship Program Joint Working Group

Charge: The charge of the EQIP/CSP Joint Working Group is to increase wildlife conservation benefits on working lands through NRCS financial assistance programs and landscape initiatives by formulating and advancing recommendations to improve program structures and policies and effectively address state fish and wildlife conservation needs through program implementation.

Farm Bill Easements Working Group

Charge: The charge of the Farm Bill Easements Working Group is to ensure that implementation of the Agricultural Conservation Easement Program enables the continued protection of wetlands, grasslands, and farmlands that provide quality wildlife habitat for priority species, soil conservation benefits, and surface and groundwater protection.

Forestry Working Group

Charge: The charge of Forestry Working Group is to improve management of private forest lands enrolled in Farm Bill programs and reduce barriers, both in policy and implementation, to using Farm Bill programs and initiatives for wildlife-friendly forest management activities, including prescribed fire and tree thinning.

Private Lands Working Group

Charge: The charge of the Private Lands Working Group is to facilitate information sharing among state fish and wildlife agencies to help develop and improve their private lands conservation programs. Instead of focusing on specific Farm Bill or state conservation programs, the Working Group will concentrate on the broader challenge of conservation delivery to private landowners and the systems required to efficiently and effectively address that challenge. This includes program design, partnerships with other conservation agencies and organizations, and state agency staffing and training.

Public Access Working Group

Charge: The charge of the Public Access Working Group is to improve implementation of the Voluntary Public Access and Habitat Incentive Program and facilitate communication and coordination between USDA and state agencies to increase voluntary public access on private lands for hunting, fishing, and other wildlife-dependent recreation.

Regional Conservation Partnership Program Working Group

Charge: The charge of the Regional Conservation Partnership Program Working Group is to develop a clearinghouse of information on the administration, progress, and types of work performed by partners and NRCS in existing RCPP partnerships; and to assist state fish and wildlife agencies in the development, application, and administration of future RCPP partnerships.

Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee

The Amphibian and Reptile Conservation Committee is responsible for identifying effective means for member states, provinces, territories, and federal agencies to address and advance herpetofaunal conservation, including through improved policies, funding avenues, and via interagency and external partner collaboration.

The committee seeks opportunities for increased interactions with other AFWA committees, and provides guidance or assistance on cross-cutting issues involving amphibians, reptiles, or their habitats, as needed or requested. In addition, the committee creates a forum for discussion, information sharing and dissemination of emerging threats and development of new conservation tools and solutions.

Angler and Boater R3 Committee

The Angler & Boater R3 Committee plays a primary role in guiding actions of the Association that maintain and enhance participation in angling, boating and other aquatic resource-based recreation including:

- Promoting policies that enhance aquatic-based recreational opportunities.
- Working with partners to identify barriers to participation and develop programs to overcome them.
- Facilitating the flow of information regarding trends in participation; the benefit of enhancement programs; and costs of barriers to participation among partners, users, and policymakers.

Annual Meeting/Awards Committee

To recommend the framework for the upcoming Annual Meeting program; propose time and place for future annual meeting sites; and select recipients of AFWA's prestigious Annual Awards.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Awards, Program, Time and Place

Audit Committee

The committee conducts the audit of Association accounts and prepares a report to be presented at the September meeting. The committee analyzes the Association's budget projection periodically to provide suggestions on improving financial management practices and on the investment of reserve funds.

Bird Conservation Committee

- Keep the Association informed of developments affecting bird conservation.

- Promote policies necessary to ensure the long-term conservation of bird populations and their habitats, sustainable hunting and the public's ability to enjoy birds.
- Maintain coordination with federal agency and NGO partners and partners throughout the western hemisphere.
- Work closely with the flyway councils and the North American Bird Conservation Initiative.
- Contribute to the activities and involvement of the International Relations Committee and other groups regarding international issues that affect birds.

The Bird Conservation Committee currently has four long-term Working Groups and three finite duration Work/Task Groups that carry out the actions and tasks of the Bird Conservation Committee. Southern Wings is an independent initiative that originated from and reports to the Bird Conservation Committee.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Short-Term Work/Task Groups

Bird and Fish-Related Conflicts Working Group

Work Group Charge: Federal and State Agency members representing the bird and fisheries management disciplines will develop an adaptive approach to identify opportunities for most efficiently addressing the challenges of managing piscivorous birds and affected fishery resources and promote a common understanding of their interactions. The WG reports to the Fisheries and Water Resource Policy Committee and the Bird Conservation Committee. The WG may advance issues to the FWRPC and BCC from which information and requests can be developed and presented to state directors.

Grassland Work Group

Work Group Charge: In September 2016, the Bird Conservation Committee discussed the need to collaboratively address the significant declines faced by many grassland-associated bird species. Each long-term Bird Conservation Committee Working Group (PIF/Shorebird/Waterbird, Resident Game Bird, Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird, Waterfowl) nominated individuals from their Working Group to serve on a grassland-focused work group. The BCC established a Work Group charged to complete the following four tasks within two years:

1. Develop a resolution outlining the crisis and prioritizing grassland birds conservation by AFWA and participating states for consideration by the AFWA Resolutions Committee,
2. Facilitate evaluation of tri-national grassland habitats and bird conservation efforts and develop a report with synopsis of current programs (goals, objectives, funding entities, etc.) and recommendations for collaboratively and collectively addressing declines in the broad suite of grassland birds,
3. Develop an NCN to address grassland bird conservation needs currently identified by conservation partners and to operationally address potential new recommendations from the above evaluation, and
4. Encourage prioritization of grassland birds conservation in budgeting of federal agencies, and identify other sources of funding that could support grassland conservation work.

Harvest Information Program (HIP) Review Task Group

Work Group Charge: In response to numerous challenges associated with HIP data collection, sampling frames, and administration, in March 2016 the Bird Conservation Committee formed a Task Group with the following charge: Review current HIP procedures at both state and federal levels, specify objectives, and make recommendations to improve sample frames, modernize survey design, increase reliability of estimates, and control costs.

Long-Term Working Groups

Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Working Group

The Migratory Shore and Upland Game Bird Working Group works closely with the Bird Conservation Committee, the Flyway Councils, interagency advisory groups, and the Department of the Interior to identify problems and management opportunities regarding migratory shore and upland game birds. The working group should develop objectives and strategies for solving problems and addressing management challenges.

The working group recognizes the international nature of managing migratory shore and upland game birds and supports those initiatives that involve international negotiations.

Partners in Flight/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group

The Partners in Flight/Shorebird/Waterbird Working Group serves as a forum for discussion of bird conservation initiative-related issues among representatives of State, Territorial, and Provincial fish and wildlife agencies and other partner organizations. In particular, this Working Group focuses on four primary areas:

1. Integrate outcomes of landbird, shorebird, and waterbird initiatives (Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships);
2. Identify significant threats to landbird, shorebird, and waterbird populations;
3. Evaluate alternative strategies for bird conservation action and make recommendations to AFWA leadership;
4. Align priorities and actions of the national Bird Conservation Plan Partnerships with implementation of State Wildlife Action Plans.

Resident Game Bird Working Group

Focus Areas and Goals:

1. Provide national leadership on issues related to resident game birds.
2. Encourage and coordinate partnerships that integrate the various bird conservation plans, game and nongame, and their delivery via projects on the ground.
3. Serve as a forum for discussion of key issues and policy actions that impact resident game bird management and conservation, and provide leadership in consensus and partnership building among bird conservation professionals.
4. Ensure representation of resident game birds in decisions and discussions of the AFWA Bird Conservation Committee, as well as the North American Bird Conservation Initiative (NABCI), and provide recommendations and guidance on key issues concerning resident game bird management and conservation to the Committee and the NABCI.
5. To promote, protect and enhance the future of resident game bird hunting as part of our hunting heritage, while working to conserve the species-specific resources and their habitats that are under our stewardship.

Waterfowl Working Group (WWG)

Subcommittee Charge:

1. Contribute to the implementation of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan (NAWMP) 2012 Revision and 2018 Update to conserve priority landscapes for waterfowl habitat and to advance the human dimensions aspects of the Plan.
2. Advance policies, legislation, and funding initiatives (NAWCA and others) in support of wetland protection and restoration, with consideration of drought, water quality, and climate change issues.
3. Provide guidance and oversight for the Fall Flights program, including the provision of support for the President's Task Force on the Fall Flights program and development of a report by the fall of 2021.
4. Initiate and support wetland and waterfowl habitat information sharing with Congress, state, federal, and NGO partners, and the public.

Climate Adaptation Committee

- Build capacity within and among state fish and wildlife agencies to begin integrating climate change into the normal business of the conservation of fish and wildlife.
- Serve as a forum for networking, information sharing, and lessons learned on climate change issues.
- Serve as the coordinated voice of the fish and wildlife agencies on climate change issues with conservation partners, other sectors, legislators, and appropriators.
- Serve as a conduit for sharing emerging research on climate change and climate adaptation and develop recommended approaches for state agencies to incorporate climate change considerations into fish and wildlife conservation.

Conservation Business Practices Committee

The Conservation Business Practices Committee was created by AFWA President Chuck Sykes as a forum for State Fish & Wildlife Agency Leadership to share best practices and lessons learned related to the application of Business Practices to Conservation.

Subcommittee:

Technology & Data Subcommittee

Subcommittee Charge: To assist state fish and wildlife agencies with the evaluation of new and emerging technology (e.g., mobile applications), social media, and data management systems and to provide guidance or recommendations for using these applications to sell licenses, collect harvest data, disseminate information, and build customer relationships.

Engagement and Education Committee

To address critical outreach (communications and marketing) needs identified by AFWA committees and membership; leverage member efforts to facilitate outreach initiatives on a national scale; strengthen and unify the conservation education efforts of AFWA members and partners; promote diversity within the agency workforce and the constituents served by the Association; and foster networking and outreach partnerships among the growing field of wildlife viewing and nature tourism initiatives.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Education Working Group

Workgroup Charge: To continue to unify and strengthen state fish and wildlife agencies' conservation education efforts—specifically in terms of (1) developing progressive outdoors skills that may increase the likelihood for hunting/shooting sports/angling initiation and (2) teaching youth about state-based fish and wildlife management in schools— that effectively advance the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation, create an informed and involved citizenry and promote the stewardship of fish and wildlife resources.

Engagement & Connections Working Group

Workgroup Charge: To encourage each generation of fish and wildlife conservation leaders to value differences in cultures, persons, and perspectives, and show it through their actions in responding to changing constituent demographics and in enhancing the workplace environment.

Outreach and Marketing Working Group

Workgroup Charge: To continue to initiate public understanding, appreciation and relevancy of state fish and wildlife management while shaping long-term conservation and enjoyment of natural resources through outreach and marketing.

Project WILD Subcommittee

Subcommittee Charge: To provide oversight to the Project WILD program and its staff; strengthen the relationship between the national Project WILD program and the individual state directors and their respective education staff; develop partnerships with other conservation education programs; ensure the Project WILD program is financially self-sustaining; maintain relevancy in larger agency and educational arenas.

Wildlife Viewing and Nature Tourism Working Group

Workgroup Charge: To advance wildlife viewing and nature tourism programs within state and federal agencies and private sector organizations as strategies to build support for fish and wildlife conservation by connecting ethnically and geographically diverse people to the outdoors.

Engagement and Education Committee and the Wildlife Diversity Conservation and Funding Committee Joint Working Group

Workgroup Charge: Collaborate to develop outreach tools, communications, and actions that will facilitate state agencies and our partners in supporting and in building support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Identify actions that can help support goals of the Relevancy Roadmap.

Energy and Wildlife Policy Committee

The Energy and Wildlife Policy Committee is focused on energy development and generation in North America and its impacts on fish and wildlife resources and their landscape habitats at the state, province, territory, region and international levels.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Solar Wildlife Working Group

Identify state fish and wildlife concerns, challenges, and opportunities related to solar siting.

Wind Wildlife Working Group

Address identified and emerging SFWA concerns and opportunities related to wind siting by:

- Promoting collaboration among and between state fish and wildlife agencies, federal partners, industry, and conservation organizations;
- Sharing information on regulatory and non-regulatory mechanisms to support positive siting outcomes; and
- understanding and advancing the science on wind wildlife interactions and cumulative impacts of wind energy development.

Executive Committee

- Provide for the employment of and assign duties to an Executive Director and may approve the employment of subordinate employees, and related matters deemed necessary to further the work of the Association.
- Annually approve a budget of itemized estimated expenditures required for the conduct of the business of the Association and may also provide for payment of legitimate expenses incurred in behalf of the Association.

Federal Public Lands Policy (formerly Federal and Tribal Relations) Committee

- Provide opportunity for discussion, deliberation and action with respect to fish and wildlife conservation in the context of the three sovereign entities which have various jurisdictional authority over these resources: state fish and wildlife agencies, the USFWS, and tribal governments.
- Coordinate effective delivery of stewardship and conservation of fish and wildlife resources.
- Assure the appropriate jurisdictional relationship between the three sovereigns in legislative, executive, and treaty initiatives.

Subcommittee/Working Groups

Wild Horse and Burro Task Force

Finance Committee

The Finance Committee is responsible for overseeing the Association's overall financial activity and reporting to the Executive Committee on the status of Association finances.

Fish and Wildlife Health Committee

- Provide expert advice and counsel to the members of the Association and its officers on fish and wildlife health matters.
- Monitor and evaluate state and federal animal health legislation and administrative actions in terms of their potential impacts on fish and wildlife resources.
- Maintain a close relationship with appropriate officials of the U.S. Departments of Agriculture and Interior to assure that the interests of fish and wildlife management are taken into account in any emergency animal disease control program.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Lead and Fish and Wildlife Health Working Group

- Advise the Fish and Wildlife Health Committee on fish and wildlife health issues related to lead deposited into the environment as a result of hunting and fishing.
- Provide a forum for exchanging information related to environmental effects of lead tackle and ammunition, nontoxic ammunition and tackle alternatives, and options for future regulation of the use of lead by hunters and anglers.
- Identify funding needs and priorities to address information needs related to the use of lead ammunition and tackle and related environmental effects.
- Provide guidance to state fish and wildlife agencies on future regulation of the use of lead for hunting and angling activities.

Aquatic Animal Health Working Group

AFWA SARS CoV-2 Working Group

Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds Committee

The Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds Committee plays a primary role in guiding actions of the Association that maintain and enhance funding for fish and wildlife agencies derived from the Sport Fish Restoration and Wildlife Restoration programs and related Federal Assistance programs.

The Committee is charged with promoting policies and procedures for efficient and effective administration of federal assistance funds and improving system accountability. It also works with states, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, federal collection agencies, and industry partners to ensure clear, fair, and effective application of laws and policies that govern the accumulation, investment, flow, and allocation of trust and related funds.

In addition, the Committee supports state, regional, and national outreach and educational efforts to demonstrate the cycle of success realized through federal assistance programs and the investment of hunter, boater, angler, and other outdoor enthusiasts' dollars—with the support of industry—in fish and wildlife conservation.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Federal Assistance Coordinators Subcommittee

The Working Subcommittee (hereafter referred to as Subcommittee) was established by action of the full Grants-in-Aid (GIA) Committee of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (IAFWA) at their meeting in Washington, D.C. on January 24, 1978. This action was taken as a means to provide State input on the regulations and policies guiding federal assistance (FA) programs administered by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Federal Assistance Division (FWS-FA). Since that time, the Subcommittee has been consulted when State input based upon a detailed working knowledge of FA programs is desirable.

Subcommittee Charge

1. Provide recommendations for and complete assignments made by the FWTFC Chair.
2. Provide WSFR a means for early review and recommendations for new actions or revisions to WSFR program, procedures, policies and/or legislation.
3. Solicit input from State FA Coordinators on topics applicable to FWTFC meeting agenda topics and WSFR program management and provide that input to FWTFC Chair and WSFR Regional Chiefs during regularly scheduled meetings.
4. To ensure consistent WSFR program administration and new program implementation; provide technical guidance and assistance to WSFR on matters such as updates to the WSFR Toolkit and FA wiki website, implementation of Director's Orders, identification of State training needs, "troubleshooting" existing practices and recommending solutions.
5. Identify emerging issues that may result from audits or new funding.
6. Inform other State FA Coordinators in respective region of all FAC Working Group activities.

FAC SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

One Federal Assistance Coordinator (FAC) and one alternate from each FWS Region (except for Regions 1, 7, and 8 – where one FAC is chosen to represent all three regions). It is recommended that FAC Working Group members have a working knowledge of both the biological and administrative aspects of FA programs. Membership will generally rotate on a three-year basis with the alternate shadowing the previous subcommittee member during their third year. Regions may adopt shorter or longer lengths of tenure if accepted by a majority of Federal Assistance Coordinators in the Region.

Trust Fund Collection Working Group

The "Wildlife" and "Sport Fish Restoration and Boating" Programs are funded through the collection of excise taxes and import duties paid by the manufacturers of sport fishing, archery and boating

equipment, firearms and ammunition, and from the tax collected on the sale of fuel used in recreational powerboats. The Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, representing the States using the funds collected for on-the-ground restoration projects, asked the Federal Agencies responsible for collecting and managing excise taxes and import duties to search for ways to ensure accurate and consistent collection of taxes and duties and to exercise fair application of the tax code. Hence, the Trust Fund Collection Working Group (TFCWG) was formed to encourage cooperation and enhance communication among parties with interests and roles in the payment, prediction, collection, management, administration and expenditures of excise taxes and import duties that finance the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund and the Federal Aid to Wildlife Restoration Fund of 1975. These two funds are the deposit accounts for the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Account and the Wildlife Conservation and Restoration Account, respectively. The management of these funds and accounts are dictated by law (26 U.S.C. 9504).

Trust Fund Collection Working Group Charter

The partnership's foundation is to ensure there is accurate and consistent collection of taxes and import duties and equitable and fair application of the tax code to support State fish and wildlife restoration and boating programs. Based on this common platform, members of the TFCWG and concerned partners identified the following mutually beneficial goals:

1. Vitalize, formalize and expand collection efforts and encourage the recognition of commonalities and shared goals and to foster mutual support among all participants
2. Identify common concerns and ways to resolve outstanding issues (task oriented outcomes), secure communication links, create efficiencies and synergistic actions among participants, and identify information and education needs and fill information voids
3. Support the Federal tax collection agencies in their efforts to improve consistency in application of tax codes by developing: (a) tools to communicate the requirements of the tax code to manufacturers; (b) a clear message from tax collectors on how to comply with the tax code and on how the tax code will be applied; (c) answers to questions regarding the most commonly misunderstood provisions (e.g, Who is the manufacturer? Who is the importer? What is the constructive sales price? What constitutes related party sales?); and, (d) identifying how greater compliance with the tax code by industry benefits fish and wildlife restoration and boating programs
4. Understand processes and roles of industry/manufacturers and Federal and State participants to protect the integrity of this initiative by: (a) reaching a common understanding of the history of supply chains and their effect on taxes collected; (b) improving process efficiencies (e.g., filing payments electronically and improving

ROLES/RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE PARTIES

This unique tax collection and disbursement cycle affects the Federal Agencies that predict, collect, manage and administer these funds, the industry representatives and manufacturers that pay the taxes and import duties, and the State representatives that administer and expend these funds on wildlife and sport fish restoration projects. The initial membership of the TFCWG is listed below in the spirit of inclusion so that comprehensive and holistic approaches can be taken on identified key issues that need to be resolved. Membership on the TFCWG or on Committees can be expanded as necessary to address and resolve issues.

Fisheries and Water Resources Policy Committee

Discuss, develop and recommend Association positions related to:

1. Federal laws, regulations and policies concerning water uses, aquatic habitat conservation, fisheries resources and related funding for such programs
2. Fisheries management practices and emerging issues (e.g. climate change) for both freshwater and marine resources.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Bird & Fish Related Conflict Working Group

Workgroup Charge: Federal and State Agency members representing the bird and fisheries management disciplines will develop an adaptive approach to identify opportunities for most efficiently addressing the challenges of managing piscivorous birds and affected fishery resources and promote a common understanding of their interactions. The WG reports to the Fisheries and Water Resource Policy Committee and the Bird Conservation Committee. The WG may advance issues to the FWRPC and BCC from which information and requests can be developed and presented to state directors.

Drug Approval Working Group

Workgroup Charge: The DAWG was developed to:

1. Coordinate overall aquatic species drug approval activities,
2. Support needed drug research,
3. Disseminate information and drug guidance, and
4. Represent the drug needs of resource management agencies throughout the U.S.

Water Subcommittee

Workgroup Charge:

1. Identify, support, and communicate science, legal, policy and public involvement issues related to water that are of importance to fish and wildlife.
2. Support and build on recommendations from AFWA Drought Forum.

Fish & Wildlife Coordination Act Working Group

Working Group Charge:

- Ensure that all state fish and wildlife agencies are aware of their federal project review authority under the Act and understand how to execute that authority.
- To improve cooperation and coordination among federal and state wildlife agencies in furtherance of coordination under the Act.
- Through increased coordination between federal and state wildlife agencies under the Act, ensure that fish and wildlife resources are given equal consideration with other federal water development project benefits.

Hunting and Shooting Sports Participation Committee

- Identify emerging needs, challenges and opportunities and provide recommendations relative to hunter education, shooting range development and the shooting sports, including archery, in North America.
- Coordinate and collaborate with government, non-governmental organization, industry partners and other Association Committees.

International Relations Committee

- Develop AFWA positions on all appropriate international matters including agreements, treaties, conventions, regulations and initiatives such as International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) and its specialists groups and especially on the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Fauna and Flora (CITES)
- Further Canadian and Mexican involvement, develop relations with Central and South American and Caribbean nations, and explore contact with other nations across the globe.
- Monitor and participate, as needed, in the relevant Conventions, agreements and treaties such as the Convention on the Conservation of Migratory Species of Wild Animals (CMS), the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD), the Ramsar Convention, Western Hemisphere Shorebird Reserve Network (WHSRN), IUCN, etc.
- Serves as AFWA's source, sounding board and integrator of information and discussion about international issues.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

CITES Technical Work Group

Workgroup Charge:

1. To inform State, Provincial, and Territorial fish and wildlife agency directors of policy developments affecting conservation at an international (i.e., through CITES) scale.
2. To formulate and advocate for policy positions reflecting the interests of State, Provincial and Territorial fish and wildlife agencies in international forums.
3. To formulate and advocate for federal policies (e.g., U.S. and Canadian) that reflect State, Provincial, and Territorial fish and wildlife agency interests.
4. To provide biological and administrative information to assist the federal governments in executing their international responsibilities.
5. To minimize unnecessary oversight and restrictions to State, Provincial and Territorial fish and wildlife agency authority as a result of policies adopted under international conventions (i.e., CITES).
6. To support sustainable use principles and the tenets of the North American Model internationally.

Invasive Species Committee

To provide a national forum for exchange of information and to identify and coordinate needs and actions among state, federal, and tribal agencies, NGOs, and other stakeholders to strategically address high priority invasive species threats and to promote sound policies.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Feral Swine Working Group

Workgroup Charge: The AFWA Feral Swine Working Group was established to further AFWA's purpose of promoting the conservation and management of wildlife resources by: Developing effective, science-based management recommendations for stakeholders, implementing recommendations and advising the AFWA Directors on issues relating to feral swine policy and administration, funding opportunities, research and management opportunities. Additionally, the FSWG will provide opportunity for its members to collaborate and exchange information on matters relating to feral swine management within North America.

Law Enforcement Committee

The Law Enforcement Committee promotes professionalism among fish and wildlife law enforcement officers and strives for better recognition of law enforcement as a profession by other conservation organizations and the general public. Recognizing that effective law enforcement depends on strong public support and cooperation, the committee makes recommendations on how to improve the public relations of conservation officers for the purpose of increasing public support. To help achieve these goals, the committee works to encourage conservation officers to present reports on issues and trends in conservation enforcement.

The Law Enforcement Committee also makes recommendations to the Association's Awards Committee for the annual Law Enforcement Award, which is awarded each September.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact

This Working Group discusses and makes findings on issues related to the Interstate Wildlife Violator Compact, under which 47 states share information on and recognize suspensions of hunting, trapping, and fishing privileges incurred in other member states for violations of law including, but not limited to:

- Commercial trade in wildlife
- Illegal take of game in closed season
- Illegal take of threatened or endangered species
- Assault on an officer
- The Compact affords law enforcement officers more time and resources for enforcement by making administration of penalties more efficient.

Leadership and Professional Development Committee

Related to this strategic priority of the Association, the Leadership and Professional Development Committee plays a primary role in guiding actions of the Association that develops tools and programs to help AFWA members develop new generations of conservation leadership who are prepared to address current and future conservation needs in their state, region, across the US, and Canadian Provinces. The Committee charge is to:

1. Provide oversight and direction to the AFWA Management Assistance Team (MAT) Work with MAT to provide guidance from Organizations regarding identified issues and concerns about the [current and future] work force so that MAT is most effectively targeting the most important leadership development and agency management needs of state fish and wildlife agencies and AFWA members.
2. Create and foster leadership development activities that may be used by AFWA Member Organizations - Facilitate development, guidance, support, and ongoing continued improvement of a Leadership Development Initiative, based on identified Organization needs, to provide training and consulting services to AFWA Member Organizations that will help them best address leadership development. Facilitate and lead development of a Leadership Institute that provides exceptional training and networking opportunities for the next generation of conservation organizations' top-leaders.
3. Communicate with AFWA members on trends related to current workforce issues, leadership development, and professional development – Communicate with AFWA Members and disseminate state-of-the-art knowledge on workforce trends and issues, latest information, and “Best and

Improved Practices” in leadership development. Provide resources so members may share their knowledge and experiences and a forum to share member experiences.

4. Coordinate with the National Conservation Leadership Institute Board of Directors – Work with the National Conservation Leadership Board of Directors and Director to facilitate state fish and wildlife agencies and other AFWA Member Organizations involvement in the National Conservation Leadership Institute and provide continuity in leadership development programming.

Legal Committee

The principal responsibilities of the Legal Committee are to advise the Executive Committee and the Association's General Counsel on legal matters which they believe are deserving of the expenditure of the Association's time, effort, and funding.

A request for the Association to enter into legal action is brought before the Legal Committee to determine whether the proposal has national significance. These proposals generally include the filing of a brief as amicus curiae in a case involving state authority to manage fish and wildlife. The Committee also may recommend passage of an Association resolution, or refer a substantial report on an emerging issue of interest to the Association as a whole.

This committee deliberates on items brought before it by individual members and makes recommendations to the Association's Executive Committee on the significance and implications of a proposed action. The Executive Committee may then elect to refer these recommendations to the directors for action at the Annual Meeting or North American Wildlife and Natural Resources Conference.

Legislative and Federal Budget Committee

- Identify and evaluate bills and policy issues coming before the U.S. Congress having the potential for affecting the needs, interests, role and authority of the Association members.
- Develop and recommend positions on such measures.
- Develop recommendations on the budgets of the federal resource agencies.
- Explore ways of working with Canada and Mexico on significant legislation.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Budget Working Group

1. This working group is responsible for helping to develop the AFWA response to the proposed federal budget and appropriations recommendations to Congress and start informing the administration of states' needs 2 years before the President's budget is released and sent to Congress.
2. This working group will help achieve strategic GOAL 1: Advocate for funding, laws, regulations, and policies that fulfill the missions and capabilities of our members; and GOAL 4: Attain comprehensive and dedicated funding for fish and wildlife conservation.

Communication/Outreach Working Group

1. Help hone key messages for advocacy messages.
2. Develop advocacy materials for AFWA's Congressional and administrative efforts as well as some media needs.

Legislative Working Group

1. Evaluating pieces of legislation with AFWA staff and appropriate courses of action to advance the states' needs.

2. Create a network among regional associations and other states to help communicate legislative updates to AFWA members and get critical perspectives from others not on the working group.

National Grants Committee

Reviews and recommends annually to the State Directors the Strategic Priorities to be used in the solicitation and selection of grants under the Multistate Conservation Grant Program (MSCGP) later in the year.

Reviews and recommends to the State Directors the MSCGP proposals that are funded by the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS). During the Association's Annual Meeting, the State Directors approve the Association's "priority list," which is due to USFWS' Division of Federal Assistance by October 1 of each year.

The National Grants Committee is composed of the following members:

Vice President of the Association (Chair)

Chair of Executive Committee (Vice-Chair)

Members:

Chair of Fish and Wildlife Trust Funds Committee

Vice-Chair of Executive Committee

Western Regional Association President (or designee)

Northeast Regional Association President (or designee)

Midwest Regional Association President (or designee)

Southeast Regional Association President (or designee)

Nominating Committee

Develop and present to the Executive Committee a list of nominees for the officers and vacant Executive Committee seats.

Ocean Resources Policy Committee

Discuss, develop, and recommend Association positions related to:

- Federal laws, regulations, and policies concerning marine ecosystems, habitats, fisheries and other resources, and related funding for such programs.
- Marine fisheries management programs, practices or considerations (e.g., Marine Recreational Information Program, catch shares) and emerging issues (e.g., climate change, coastal energy, marine aquaculture and marine spatial planning).

One Health Committee

The One Health Committee will collaborate with relevant AFWA committees and others outside the fish and wildlife sector to discuss, communicate, develop policies, and take action to elevate the importance and relevancy of fish and wildlife conservation on the landscapes in which they depend within the One Health Framework in North America. The committee's work will be guided by prioritized strategies in the AFWA One Health President's Task Force Report.

Resolutions Committee

The Resolutions Committee is responsible for soliciting resolutions from the other Association committees; developing resolutions from other appropriate sources; and determining which of these should be presented to the membership for adoption. All proposed resolutions are reviewed by the appropriate subject matter committee, which makes its recommendations to the Resolutions Committee.

Science and Research Committee

The Science and Research Committee is responsible for keeping the Association informed of the ecological research and information needs of the States and managing a process for addressing those needs through a variety of mechanisms, including enhanced Federal-State partnerships.

The Committee meets this charge by:

- Collecting research and information needs
- Evaluating and prioritizing needs
- Facilitating the transfer of existing information to address specific needs
- Prioritizing needs that must be addressed through new research projects
- Coordinating action plans with research organizations (Federal, State, and others)
- Evaluating the progress/findings of the research efforts and facilitating the effective dissemination/translation of research findings into management implications

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Human Dimensions and Social Science Subcommittee

Subcommittee Charge: The AFWA Human Dimensions and Social Science Subcommittee will provide a forum for discussion about human dimensions and social science research and applications in state, federal and provincial wildlife and natural resource agencies and partners to:

- Highlight the necessity of social science integration into fish and wildlife management decisions.
- Identify and provide effective tools, resources, and expertise for successful social science integration.
- Promote and foster increased social science competence of natural resource practitioners to increase the capacity of conservation social science in North America.
- Build cross jurisdictional connections between AFWA member organizations, regional human dimensions/social science committees/working groups, and partner organizations to improve conservation outcomes, reduce redundancy across organizations, and advance social science integration.

Shared Science & Research Priorities Working Group

The AFWA Science and Research Committee will continue to solicit information on a periodic basis regarding current and future anticipated science and research priorities from state fish and wildlife agency directors; other AFWA committees with science and research interests; regional AFWAs; regional conservation partnerships, and national science partners.

Sustainable Use of Wildlife Committee

Advocate the North American Model of Wildlife Conservation and promote the sustainable use of fish and wildlife resources at the international level.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

US Furbearer Conservation Technical Working Group

Workgroup Charge: To support furbearer management programs as currently conducted by state and federal agencies: (1) through the development of trapping BMPs (2) by providing for professional development workshops to educate wildlife professionals about modern regulated trapping (3) engaging in lawsuits etc. to maintain regulated trapping programs (4) engage with the EU regarding the signed Agreed Minute and Understanding.

Threatened and Endangered Species Policy Committee

- Review procedural or categorical issues affecting threatened and endangered species listings under the Endangered Species Act (ESA) as well as downlisting/de-listing and critical habitat designation proposals as reported in the Federal Register; suggest appropriate action.
- Keep abreast of legislative proposals and oversight hearings and recommend Association involvement when appropriate.
- Maintain active liaison with appropriate federal agency offices, the conservation community, states and regional associations.
- Serve as the subject matter and support group on endangered species that are covered by CITES or other international arrangements.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

ESA and Climate Change Working Group:

1. Explore the ESA/climate change nexus and what tools, products, forums, or other items would better inform fish and wildlife managers and conservation actions.
2. Explore challenges and brainstorm possible solutions or techniques for how natural resources professionals may conserve and recover species impacted by climate change.

Wildlife Diversity Conservation & Funding Committee

Advocate for long-term dedicated funding and annual appropriations for the conservation of Species of Greatest Conservation Need, nature-based recreation and conservation education; support development, implementation and revision of State Wildlife Action Plans.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Bat Working Group

Working Group Charge: Bat Conservation Working Group (BWG) will help identify barriers to bat conservation and work with other AFWA committees to provide guidance or assistance on cross-cutting issues. The working group creates a forum for coordination and information sharing regarding broad collaborations (e.g. NA Bat monitoring and WNS response) and develops new conservation tools and solutions.

EOD-WDCF Joint Working Group

Working Group Charge: Collaborate to develop outreach tools, communications, and actions that will facilitate state agencies and our partners in supporting and in building support for the Recovering America's Wildlife Act. Identify actions that can help support goals of the Relevancy Roadmap.

Pollinator and Invertebrate Conservation Working Group

Working Group Charge: Bring together geographically diverse state and federal agency staff, along with conservation organizations, to coordinate research and conserve invertebrate species populations across their ranges. Form a network of professionals to tackle data deficiencies in a collaborative manner. Finally, assist state wildlife diversity managers to revise and include invertebrate species in their State Wildlife Action Plans as Species of Greatest Conservation Need.

SWAP Databases and Dashboards Working Group

Working Group Charge: Compile information on State Wildlife Action Plan databases and dashboards and provide a forum to share information, learning, approaches, and innovations that can improve the accessibility and reporting of State Wildlife Action Plans.

Wildlife Resource Policy Committee

To discuss and develop recommendations on Association positions related to federal laws, regulations and policies concerning habitat conservation, wildlife resources and related funding for such programs as well as wildlife management practices including those concerned with problem or nuisance wildlife, and emerging issues (e.g., commercial trade). The committee also stays abreast of threatened and endangered species wildlife issues, state legislation pertaining to wildlife management and wildlife diversity funding initiatives.

Subcommittees and Working Groups:

Human/Wildlife Conflict Working Group

Workgroup Charge: To assist Agencies with the growing challenges of managing human-wildlife conflicts by providing a forum for discussion and a mechanism for agencies to work together to come up with solutions to conflicts that benefit wildlife and the humans with whom they interact.

BearWise Working Group

SUMMARY: AFWA adopted BearWise as a national program in January 2022 and a President's Task Force was created to oversee the program. Prior to that, BearWise was a program of the Southeast Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies (SEAFWA). The Task Force's charge stated that after two years the Association would determine if BearWise should be housed within AFWA's existing committee structure. January 2024 will mark two years since the program was formally adopted by AFWA.